

The habit of drinking, which is invariably the prolific mother of sin and sloth, wretchedness and rags, is sure, to be maintained and kept alive by the beggarly progeny to which it has given birth. Whenever my unhappy father was dunned for the interest on his mortgage, or any other debt, which at last, he had no means to pay, he was in the habit, almost mechanically, as soon as the creditor had departed, of turning to the jug of rum for relief and oblivion.

The gloom and ill-nature which had hitherto been occasionally interspersed with exhibitions of kindlier feelings to us all, appeared to have become unvarying and fixed. There was less and less, from week to week, of an April sky. All was chill and drear, like November. One evening, my mother and sister had been busily engaged, as usual, in such housewifery as might best contribute to keep our poor wreck of a domicile together, as long as possible. I had learned to write a fair hand, and was engaged in copying some papers for our squire, who paid me by the sheet. It had gotten to be nearly ten o'clock. My mother put on her spectacles, and opening the Bible, began to read, Rachael and I sat by the fire listening to the words of truth and soberness. My poor mother had fallen upon a portion of Scripture, which from its applicability to her own situation and that of her children, had affected her feelings, and the tears were in her eyes, when the loud tramp upon the door step announced the return of my father. His whole appearance was unusually ominous of evil. My mother stirred the fire, and I placed him a chair which he kicked over, and threw himself down upon the bed, and called for supper. Mother told him in a gentle manner there was nothing in the house but some bread. He told her she lied, and swore terribly. She sat silent by the fire;—I looked up in her face; she wept but said nothing. "Don't cry so, dear mother," said Rachael. "Wife," said my father, sitting upon the edge of the bed, "when will you leave off crying?" "Whenever you leave off drinking, husband," replied my mother in the kindest manner. My father sprang up, in a hurricane of wrath, and with a dreadful oath hurled a chair at my mother's head, I sprang forward and received its full force upon my shoulder. Rachael and my mother fled to a neighbour's house, and my father struck me several blows with his feet and fists; and, as I made my escape, I left him dashing the furniture to pieces with the fury of a madman. I rushed forth to seek shelter amid the driving storm, from the tempest of a drunken father's wrath. I went, as speedily as possible, to the squire's house and begged him to take compassion on my poor mother and sister. Having received his promise, that he would go instantly over to our cottage, I took the resolution which I have already stated.

After I had passed a comfortless night in the farmer's barn, I pushed forward to the city. I had a trifle of change in my pocket: I bought a biscuit of a travelling baker, and I had no relish for any other than the beverage of God's appointment, which was near at hand. When I reached the city, I directed my course to one of the wharfs, and found no difficulty, as I was unusually stout for my years, in obtaining a voyage, as a green hand, in a ship bound to China. Three days passed before the ship sailed. I wrote to my mother and sister, bidding them keep up their spirits, and put their trust, as I did, in the God of the widow and the fatherless, for such, and even worse, was our condition. I asked them to say to father when he was sober, that, although I scarcely expected to see him again in this world, I freely forgave all his ill-treatment to myself.

I worked hard and strove to please the captain. I soon found that ploughing the sea was a very different affair from ploughing the land. I had been taught at all times, by my dear mother, and by my poor unhappy father also, till he became intemperate, to put the fullest confidence in the promises of God. When we arrived in China, though we had shipped out and home, the voyage was broken up, and the ship sold. The captain settled with the crew to their entire satisfaction; and I shall always be grateful for his kindness to me. He got me a voyage to England. I laid

out my wages by his advice. I could not have followed a shrewder counsellor. He was born and bred, as far as regards his land learning, in one of the most thrifty villages in Connecticut. We had a most boisterous voyage from Canton to Liverpool; but, whenever I pulled a rope, I always pulled a little harder for the sake of my old mother and sister Rachael: I had saved every penny of my wages that I could lay by, and my little investment in Canton turned out far beyond my expectations. I do not think I was avaricious; but I felt it to be my duty, under existing circumstances, to save my earnings for my honoured mother. Nevertheless, I felt myself authorised to indulge in one luxury at least; so, upon my arrival at Liverpool, I went into the first bookstore and bought me a pocket bible.

Five years had now gone by, in which I had sailed many thousands of miles, and visited various corners of the world. During this period, I had gotten together a larger sum of money than I ever expected to possess at twenty-one; besides having made several remittances to the squire, for my old mother's use, to whom I wrote upon every convenient opportunity, they all came to hand, as I afterwards learned, saving one, in gold, which went to the bottom with poor Tom Johnson, who was lost at sea. If I was fortunate enough to save my hard earnings, just let me say, for the advantage of every brother sailor, that there are four things which I never did: I never suffered a drop of grog to go down my hatch, blow high or blow low; I never rolled a stinking weed, like a sweet morsel, under my tongue; I never crossed hands with a drunken landlord; and I never bore away from a poor fellow whose hammock was harder than my own.

My five year's absence from home might have extended to fifty, but for many recollections of my mother and sister, which become more forcible from day to day. My remembrance of my father was of the most painful character; the very recollection of his tenderness in the days of my childhood, which often brought tears into my eyes, served only to render the image of a cruel and degraded parent more frightful and revolting.

I had shipped, about this time, on board the *Swiftsure*, from London to Oporto. One afternoon, two or three of us, a day or two before the ship sailed, had strolled over to the south side of the Thames, to look at the king's dock-yards at Deptford. As I was rambling among the docks, I received a smart slap on the shoulder, and, turning suddenly round, whom should I see but old Tom Johnson, as honest a fellow as ever broke bread or wore a tarpaulin! He was born in our village; had followed the sea for nearly forty years; and once, in the course of three or four, he contrived to find his way to the old spot, and spend a few days in the valley where he was born. "Why, Bob," said he, "I'm heartily glad to see you, my lad; so you've taken leg bail of the old folks, and turned rover in good earnest, cy?"—I told him, I hoped he didn't think I'd left my old mother to shirk for herself in her old age. "Not a jot," replied the old sailor; "Squire Seely has told me the whole story, and says he has put the sweat of your brow, more than once or twice either, into the old lady's hand, and made her old weather-beaten heart leap for joy, to hear you was so thoughtful a lad. I saw your mother about a year ago, and your sister Rachael." I shook old Tom Johnson by the hand; I could not restrain my feelings, for this was the first news I had received from home for more than five years.—"Come Bob," said the old fellow, "don't be for opening your scuppers and making crooked faces; though it blows hard enough now, it may get to be calm weather after all." "How is my father doing now?" I inquired.—"Why, as to that," answered Tom Johnson, "it's about a twelvemonth since I was there. I told the old lady I might cross your hawse in some part of the world. She has a rough time of it, my boy. The old man holds on to mischief, like a heavy keel in a clay bottom. The cold water folks began, about a year ago, to scatter their seed in the village, in the shape of tracts, and tales, and newspapers. Some of them were thrown at your father's door, and at the door of old Deacon Flint, the distiller. There, as you may suppose, the

seed fell in stony places. Your father was in a great rage, and swore he'd shoot the first person that left another of their rascally publications before his door. I am afraid it will be a long while, my lad, before the temperance folks get the weather gage of the rum sellers and rum drinkers in our village. They have had a miserable seed time, and the devil and Deacon Flint, I am afraid, will have the best of the harvest."

As Tom Johnston was to sail, in about a week for the United States, I sent by him a few lines of comfort, and, a small remittance for my mother. As I have already stated, they never reached the place of their destination. The *Oranoke*, of which this poor fellow was first mate, was foundered at sea, and the whole crew perished.

After I had arrived at Oporto, the crew of the *Swiftsure* were discharged; and, finding a favourable chance, I shipped for Philadelphia, where we arrived, after an extremely short and prosperous passage. I directed my course, once more, towards my native hamlet. My feelings were of the most painful and perplexing character. In accumulated years, and even in the little property which I had gathered, I felt conscious of something like a power and influence; which, by God's grace, I hoped to exert for the protection of my mother. Yet, when I recollected the ungovernable violence of my father's temper, under the stimulus of liquor, I almost despaired of success. At any rate, I could behold the face of her who bore me, and receive her blessing once more before she died.

Having sent my luggage forward, I performed a considerable part of my journey on foot. I had arrived in the village adjoining our own. I paused, for an instant, to look at the barn, in which, five years before, I had passed a most miserable night. It brought before me, with a painful precision, the melancholy record of the past. Every mile of my lessening way abated something of that confidence which I had occasionally cherished, of being the instrument, under God, of bringing happiness again into the dwelling of wretched parents.

I had arrived within two miles of the little river, which forms one of the boundary lines of our village. I was passing a little grocery, or tipplery, and, standing at the door, I recognized the very individual who formerly kept the grog-shop in our town, and from whom my father had purchased his rum for many years. Although it was already gray twilight, I knew him immediately; and, however painful to approach a person, in whom I could not fail to behold the destroyer of my father, I could not repress an earnest desire to learn something of my family. I accosted him, and he remembered me at once. His manners were those of a surly and dissatisfied man. In reply to my inquiries, he informed me that my parents and my sister were alive, and added, with a sneer, my father had set up for a cold water man; "but," continued he with a forced and spiteful laugh, "it will take him all his days, I guess, to put off the old man; they that have gotten the relish of my rum, are not so apt to change it for cold water." Upon further inquiry, I ascertained that there had been a temperance movement in our village; and that the seed, as poor Tom Johnson said, had been scattered there with an unsparing hand. I also gathered the information from this rum seller, that the select men had refused to appropriate any applicant for a license to sell ardent spirits in our village; and that he himself had been obliged to quit his old stand, and take the new one, which he now occupied.

I turned from the dram seller's door and proceeded on my way. It was quite dark; but the road was familiar to my feet. It afforded me unspeakable pleasure to learn that my mother and sister were alive and well. But I was exceedingly perplexed with the rum seller's statement in relation to my father. Can it be possible, thought I, that he has become a cold water man? How true is the rum seller's remark, that few, who have gotten a taste for his rum, are apt to change it for cold water! For more than twelve years, my father had been an intemperate man; and even if he had abandoned ardent spirit, for a time, how little reliance could be placed upon a drunk-

ard's reformation. Besides Tom Johnson had expressly stated, that my father had been exceedingly hostile to the temperance movement from the beginning.

With these and similar reflections, my mind continued to be occupied until I entered our village. It was about half-past nine when I came within a few rods of the old cottage. A light was still gleaming forth from the window. I drew slowly and near to the door. I thought I heard a voice. I listened attentively. It was my father's. My mother appeared not to reply; such was her constant habit, whenever under the influence of liquor, he gave a loose rein to his tongue, and indulged in unkind and abusive language. I drew still nearer, and, passing softly into the entry. I listened more attentively at the inner door. Can it be possible! thought I. He was engaged in prayer, in fervent and pious prayer! He prayed with a trembling voice, for the restoration of an absent son. There was a pause. From the movement within, it was evident they had risen from their knees. I gently raised the latch, and opened the door. The father, the mother, the sister, were locked in the arms of one another! my regenerated old father fell once more upon his knees; we all followed his example; and before a word of congratulation had passed from one to the other, he poured forth such a touching strain of thanksgiving and praise to the Giver of every good and perfect gift for my safe return, as would have melted the heart of the most obdurate offender. It came directly from the heart of a truly penitent sinner, and it went straightway to the God of mercy. I gazed upon my poor old father. It seemed like the moral resurrection of one already dead and buried in his trespasses and sins. I glanced rapidly about me; all was peace, all was order, where all had been strife and confusion before. The rum jug no longer occupied its accustomed place upon the table;—the expanded volume of eternal life was there in its stead!

I gazed with inexpressible joy upon the happy faces about me; my father, to all outward appearance, such as he had been in better days, sitting in silence, and evidently restraining the emotions of his soul; poor Rachel upon my knee, her features bathed with happy tears; and my dear old mother turning her countenance, full of gratitude and love, alternately towards Heaven and upon a long gone child, returned at last.

Six years had now gone by since a merciful God softened the stubborn soil in my father's heart. The seed did not fall altogether, as Tom Johnson supposed, upon stony places. Some of them have sprung up, as in our own highly favoured heritage, and borne fruit an hundred fold. Let us thank God, then, who hath enabled us abundantly to gather the Harvest; for peace is once more at our fireside; the wife has regained her husband, and the orphans have found their father.

GROUNDS FOR A DIVORCE.

“And Love—which, on their bridal eve,
Had promised long to stay—
Forgot his promise—took French leave,
And bore his lamp away.”—HALLECK.

CHARLES T— was married a few years ago. He was a happy man. His business was a thriving one, and he snapped his fingers, and said, he did not care a fig for the presidents, cashiers and directors of all the banks in Christendom, for he owed them nothing; and was not obliged to bow, and stoop, and cringe to them for a discount, as many do now-a-days, until it is quite impossible to stand erect in the presence of an honest man. He had a house in Broadway, near the Bowling-green, and lived more like a nabob than well becomes a decent republican in this democratic country. His wife had been a belle and a beauty; but, like many others of her sex, she had a will of her own, which she did not lay aside with her bridal garments. Everybody envied Charles his good fortune. Matters went on swimmingly.

Charles was a high fellow—fond of his friend—fond of his horses—fond of his dogs—and fond of having his way in everything. He liked company—frequently gave parties at his own house, and attended balls, routes and soirees at those of his neighbours. He was, in short, a fine, gay, dashing spark—full of health and spirits, and in the very bloom of life. Yet, with all his good qualities, Charles T— had one fault, which his wife endeavoured in vain to correct. He would endeavour occasionally to stay out until midnight; and, whenever this occurred, Mrs. T— met him at the threshold of his own door, with chidings and complaints. Now, Mr. T— had a touch of Gloster's condition, which “could not brook the spirit of reproof;” so that the course his wife took to remedy the defect in his character, only made matters worse—and discontent and family bickerings were the result; frequently wranglings followed, and an open rupture finally ensued; consequently, in process of time, both husband and wife grew heartily tired of each other. One day a grand entertainment was given at the Astor house, in honour of a distinguished senator. Charles T— of course attended. The dinner was excellent—the speeches eloquent—the wines sparkling, and the company even more sparkling than the wine. Charles did not go home that night at all, but arrived at his own door just as St. Paul's clock struck the hour of four. The morning was drear and cold. Not a light was to be seen—not a footstep to be heard—the watchmen were turned in and the gas-lamps were turned out; and, more dismal still, the door of Mr. T—'s dwelling was locked! This had never happened before; and Charles' patriotism gave way to his petulance. He pulled most lustily at the bell—he broke the wire—he dashed the handle on the pavement; but no one answered his summons. He addressed himself to the knocker—rap, rap, r-a-p, and repeated; r-a-p, r-a-p, r-a-a-p-p, and again repeated; but all in vain. The inmates were either asleep, or dead—it was not certain which; but it was certain that no one came to his relief. It was striking five o'clock; and an old laughill cock, in an adjacent stable, had “thrice done salutation to the dawn.” The musical timepiece, on the marble mantel in the front room of his own house, was playing the popular air of “How brightly breaks the morning”—but no friendly hand withdrew the bolt that kept him from his bed. This was too bad. Rap, rap, rap, went the knocker once more, and louder than ever. Up flew the windows of almost every house in the neighbourhood, except his own—and out shot various night-caps and bandanas to enquire what would be the matter? Charles endeavoured to explain, when, with a bitter reproof for disturbing people in their virtuous beds, and for waking them out of their innocent sleep at such unreasonable hours, down went the sashes, and—presto!—the night-caps and bandanas disappeared in less time than you could say Jack Robinson! Charles was boiling over with rage. He tried the window-shutters, the collar-door, and the grate to the coal-vault, but all to no purpose. Finally, a thought struck him, and he resolved to scale the garden-wall. He repaired to the rear of the house with that intention. While clambering over the bricks, he was arrested by one of the guardians of the night, who had awakened from a delicious nap, just in the nick of time to seize him by the leg and bear him away to the watch-house. Here he remained until day-break, when he was dismissed by Mr. Justice Lownds, with an admonition to keep better hours in future! How the lady explained the matter—how it happened that none of the household heard the bell and knocker—and why a night-latch was added soon after to the front-door, are matters that we know nothing about; and, if we did, they are not worth recording here. We pass over these and other uninteresting particulars for the sake of brevity, and leave the reader to account for a mysterious advertisement which has recently been published in the Albany Argus, wherein it is set forth that a certain very ill-used lady claims to be divorced from her husband, on the grounds that he is given to late hours and bad company!

On the 20th inst. (July) the Third Anniversary of the Total Abstinence Society was held in this place, (Llanelly.) On the evening of the Sabbath, after the close of the services of the day, the teetotallers and other friends favourable to the cause, met at the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel, to unite in their supplications for the blessing of God upon the proceedings of the coming day. On the 20th they met at the Welsh Independent Chapel (Capel Als), when the Rev. Mr. Williams, of Llandilo, prayed, and the Rev. Messrs. Griffiths, of Alltween, and Morris, of Glandwr, preached. After this service a procession was formed, banners with suitable and appropriate mottoes were unfurled, and the streets, which were lined with spectators, became vocal with the sonorous voices and sweet melody of cold water drinkers. After parading the principal streets of the town the company separated; at two, the Rev. Messrs. Williams, of Llandilo, and Griffiths, Alltween, very powerfully urged the claims of the society upon the attention of professing Christians; and at six, the Rev. Messrs. Evans, Capel; Evans, of Camarthen; Williams, Llandilo; and Morris, of Glandwr, riveted the attention of a vast concourse assembled in the Calvinistic Methodist Chapel; and at the close of the day it was found that 150 signed the pledge. The principles of Total Abstinence from intoxicating drinks have already conferred lasting benefits upon the principality, and in some parts have become all but universal; hundreds of instances might be adduced of the meliorating effects of the Society upon the present and eternal welfare of the inhabitants of our beloved country; hundreds of besotted drunkards have not only been reformed from their drunken habits, but also been induced to attend the means of grace, and finally, to give themselves to God and his people. Those who were once a pest to society, a curse to their families, and the bane of their employers, are now seen mingling their devotions with their neighbours in the house of prayer; leading their wives and their children, who formerly were steeped in poverty and clothed with rags, to the sanctuary of their God, rejoicing at the change that has taken place in their circumstances and prospects.

TEMPERANCE AND HUMANITY.—“Let it be recorded,” says Captain Havelock, “to the honour of the captors, that though Ghuznee was carried by storm, after a resistance stout enough to have roused the angry passions of the assailants, the Afghans were every where spared when they ceased to fight; and it is itself a moral triumph, exceeding in value and duration the praise of the martial achievements of the troops, that, in a fortress captured by assault, not the slightest insult was offered to one of the females found in the zenana within the walls of the citadel. This forbearance, and these substantive proofs of excellent discipline, reflect more credit on officers and men than the indisputable skill and valour displayed in the operation. But let me not be accused of foisting in unfairly a favourite topic, or attempting to detract from the merit of the troops, when I remark in how great a degree the self-denial, mercy, and generosity of the hour may be attributed to the fact of the European soldiers having received no spirit ration since the 8th of July, (the place was captured on the 23rd), and having found no intoxicating liquor amongst the plunder of Ghuznee. No candid man of any military experience will deny that the character of the scene in the fortress and citadel would have been far different if individual soldiers had entered the town primed with arrack, or if spirituous liquors had been discovered in the Afghan depots. Since, then, it has been proved that troops can make forced marches of 40 miles, and storm a fortress in 75 minutes, without the aid of rum, besieged and captured a fortress of no mean strength, and having after success with a forbearance and humanity unparalleled in history, let it not henceforth be argued that distilled spirits are an indispensable portion of a soldier's ration. The medical officers of this army have distinctly attributed to their previous abstinence from strong drink the rapid recovery of the wounded at Ghuznee.”

PUBLIC MEETING.

The public meeting to petition both Houses of Parliament against the proposed division of the Colony was held in the School of Arts on Thursday, the High Sheriff in the chair.

The principal speakers in support of the proceedings will be seen by the following list of movers and seconders of the resolutions:—Mr. R. Jones, M.C., Mr. Blaxland, M.C., Mr. James Macarthur, M.C., Dr. Wallace, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Robert Scott, Mr. Rennie, Mr. H. O'Brien, J.P., Mr. G. H. Holden, Mr. Palmer, Mr. F. Macarthur, Rev. R. Mansfield, Mr. J. Blaxland, Junr., Captain Westmacott, J.P., Mr. Faithful, J.P., Mr. H. C. Sempill, J.P., Mr. T. Barker, J.P., and Dr. Mitchell.

The only opponents to the promoters of the Bill were Mr. C. Campbell and Mr. Macdermott.

The nature of the grounds upon which the parties object to the division will be seen from the resolutions and petition which we give below.

1. That it appears desirable to this Meeting to present, in addition to the Address to the Queen agreed to on a former occasion, Petitions to both Houses of Parliament, deprecating the proposed dismemberment of the Colony.

2. That this Meeting has viewed with the most lively alarm, the introduction into the House of Commons during the last Session of Parliament, of two Bills, containing certain clauses empowering Her Majesty to subdivide the existing territory of New South Wales into distinct and independent colonies; and that although the said clauses appear to have been ultimately withdrawn, yet the Despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to His Excellency the Governor, dated 31st May, 1841, and printed by order of the Legislative Council, signifies the intention of Her Majesty's government to carry into immediate effect a measure which, whilst it professedly has reference only to purposes connected with the disposal of land, is understood by the colonists to be preparatory to an absolute and permanent dismemberment of the territory.

3. That in the opinion of this Meeting, the proposed dismemberment would be as unnecessary and impolitic as it is repugnant to the wishes of a large proportion of the inhabitants of the colony; since it would be calculated to foment local rivalries and jealousies throughout a community now bound together by one common tie, and to interfere with vested interests to a large and ruinous extent. Nor is this Meeting aware that it has ever been shown, that to counterbalance these pernicious results, the measure could be productive of any advantage whatsoever, either to the immediate sufferers or to the Parent State.

4. That another portion of the said Despatch, ratified by instructions under the Royal Sign Manual, whereby His Excellency the Governor, is required to discontinue, with certain exceptions comparatively trivial, the system of selling Crown land by public auction, at an upset minimum price per acre, and to substitute the mode of sale at an uniform fixed price, is viewed by this Meeting with much disquietude; inasmuch as the existing practice, which was first introduced by the Earl of Rippon's Regulations of 1831, and sanctioned in the year 1833 by a Committee of the House of Commons, has been demonstrated, by the experience of ten years, to be just, useful, and necessary.

5. That by the adoption of an uniform fixed price, that fund derived from the sale of Crown Lands, which has hitherto been in an efficient and progressive state, would in the opinion of this meeting, be most extensively and seriously diminished; and the colony would thus be deprived of its grand resource for that ample and steady supply of immigrant labour, which constitutes at once the chief element of its own prosperity, and the most important of its means of benefiting the Mother Country.

6. That if the policy of South Australia be cited in vindication of the changes aforesaid, this meeting would firmly protest against the erection of so immature and doubtful an experiment, into a precedent for the senior and more prosperous colony of New South Wales.

7. That the Petitions to both Houses of Parliament now read, framed on the foregoing Resolutions, be adopted, and referred to the Committee approved by the Public Meeting held on the 7th ultimo, for the purpose of obtaining signatures thereto, and of forwarding them to their destination.

8. That the Memorandum now read, framed by the Committee, be adopted, and printed under the Committee's direction, for circulation among Members of Parliament.

9. That the most cordial thanks of this Meeting be presented to Major Macarthur and the other friends of the colony in England, for the vigilance with which they watched over the interests of the colony, on the introduction of the aforesaid Bills, and for the prompt and energetic manner in which they acted at that critical emergency; since to their exertions the colony appears to be mainly indebted for the timely and efficient interposition of Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Goulburn, in the House of Commons, on the occasion referred to.

The following is Mr. C. Campbell's amendment, which fell to the ground:—

That this meeting is not aware that it has been ever proved that the proposed dismemberment, which has been

unanimously pronounced by the Legislative Council of New South Wales, unnecessary and impolitic, and which by interfering with their system of depasturage, must inflict a serious injury upon the Colonists, will be productive of any counterbalancing advantages either to the immediate sufferers, or to the Mother Country.

That the proposed encroachment on those boundaries to which the Colonists of New South Wales can advance a just claim, and the consequent annihilation of their Immigration Fund—cannot but be deemed by the Meeting, an act of extreme harshness and injustice. When it is remembered, that the Secretary of State, in the absence of a representative assembly, elected by the Colonists, and in defiance of the remonstrances of the Legislative Council, has frequently diverted that fund from its legitimate object, the introduction of labour, and applied it to the erection of gaols, and the support of an expensive Police, rendered necessary solely by the transportation of Convicts from Great Britain to New South Wales.

That, in the opinion of this Meeting, it must be impossible for any person in England to fix judiciously the boundaries of the territory attached to this Colony, with the circumstances of which he can be but imperfectly acquainted, and that when such boundaries shall be defined, the execution of a measure of so much importance and responsibility, ought to be entrusted by Her Majesty to Commissioners on the spot, possessing local knowledge, and that His Excellency Sir George Gipps ought to be one of those Commissioners.

THE PETITION.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

The Humble Petition of the Undersigned, Members of Council, Clergy, Magistrates, Landholders, Merchants, and others, resident within the Colony of New South Wales,

Humbly Sheweth:—

1. That your Petitioners have viewed, with the most lively alarm, the introduction into your Honourable House, during the last session of Parliament, of two Bills: one intitled, "A Bill to make further provision for the Government of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land;" which Bill, as your petitioners understand, was withdrawn; and another, intitled, "A Bill to continue," &c., which was succeeded by a Bill, ultimately passed into a law as 3 & 4 Victoria, cap. 62.

2. That from copies of the aforesaid Bills which have fallen into their hands, your Petitioners learn that two of them contained certain clauses empowering Her Majesty to subdivide the existing territory of New South Wales into distinct and independent colonies.

3. That although the said clauses appear to have been ultimately withdrawn, yet a despatch bearing date the 31st of May, 1840, has been addressed by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, signifying the intention of Her Majesty's Government to carry into immediate effect, a measure which, whilst it professedly has reference only to purposes connected with the disposal of land, is understood by the colonists to be preparatory to an absolute and permanent dismemberment of the Territory; and the said despatch having been printed by order of the Legislative Council, has been read by the colonists with the utmost concern.

4. That the proposed dismemberment would be as unnecessary, and impolitic, as it is repugnant to the wishes of the inhabitants of the Colony.

5. That such dismemberment would be calculated to foment local rivalries and jealousies throughout a community now bound together by one common tie, and to interfere with vested interests to a large and ruinous extent; nor are your petitioners aware that it has ever been shown, that, to counterbalance these pernicious results, the measure could be productive of any advantage whatsoever, either to the immediate sufferers, or to the Parent State.

6. That another portion of the above-mentioned Despatch, having reference to the mode of alienating Crown lands, is viewed by your petitioners with much disquietude; the more so, from His Excellency Sir George Gipps having been required, by instructions under the Royal Sign Manual, to discontinue with certain excep-

tions comparatively trivial, the system of selling Crown lands by public auction at an upset minimum price per acre, and to substitute the mode of sale at an uniform fixed price.

7. That the principle of alienating crown lands by public auction, at an upset minimum price, which was first introduced by the Earl of Rippon's regulations of 1831, was sanctioned in the year 1836 by a committee of your Honourable House, and has been demonstrated, by the experience of ten years, to be just, useful, and necessary.

8. That by the adoption of an uniform fixed price, the fund derived from the sale of Crown Lands, which, under the existing system, is in an efficient and progressive state, would be most extensively and seriously diminished; and the Colony would thus be deprived of its grand resource for that ample and steady supply of immigrant labour which constitutes at once the chief element of its own prosperity, and the most important of its means of benefiting the Mother Country.

9. That if the policy of South Australia be cited in vindication of the changes aforesaid, your petitioners would, with all deference, but firmly, protest against the erection of so immature and doubtful an experiment into a precedent for the senior and more prosperous Colony of New South Wales.

Wherefore, your petitioners humbly pray that your Honourable House will be pleased to take the premises into your favourable consideration, and withhold, on the one hand, your sanction from the permanent adoption of any scheme for narrowing the boundaries of New South Wales; and on the other, so far as to your Honourable House may appertain, to affirm, by a Legislative enactment, the principle upon which the Crown Lands of this Colony have hitherto been sold.

And your petitioners will ever pray, &c.
[The Petition to the House of Lords was the same, with the exception of the superscription.]

A very lengthy and very able memorandum, containing arguments in support of the petition was also adopted, in which it is argued that the proposed division of the Colony would be injurious

1. Because it would deprive the Colonists of the advantages of social and political unity.

2. Because whilst, as will be hereafter shewn, it would greatly diminish the proceeds of the Crown Lands, it would, at the same time, involve a heavy addition to local taxation.

3. Because to the middle or senior Colony, it would be a work of positive and most grievous injustice.

The following arguments are also urged against the proposed sale of land at an uniform price:—

1. Because sale by auction is the only sure means of ascertaining the true value of the Crown Lands.

2. Because the system of auction has hitherto worked well.

3. Because to the existing race of Colonists the new system involves a breach of public faith.

4. Because the theory of forced concentration upon which alone the abettors of the new system seem to rest its pretensions, is inapplicable to the circumstances of the Colony.

The petitions will be engrossed, and will lie at the usual places for signature in the course of a few days, when it is necessary that all who intend to do so should sign their names as early as possible, as it is requisite they should be in London early in the ensuing session of Parliament.

VICE AND VIRTUE.—Whoever considers the state and condition of human nature, and upon this view, how much stronger the natural motives are to virtue than to vice, would expect to find the world much better than it is, or ever has been;—for who would suppose the generality of mankind to betray so much folly, as to act against the common interest of their own kind, as every man does who yields to the temptation of what is wrong?—*Sterne's Sermons.*

LADIES' CORNER.

HEAVEN.

ONE morn a Peri at the gate
Of Eden stood disconsolate :
And as she listen'd to the springs
Of life within, like music flowing,
And caught the light upon her wings
Through the half-open portal glowing,
She wept to think her recreant race
Should e'er have lost that glorious place !

"How happy," exclaim'd this child of air,
"Are the holy spirits who wander there,
Mid flowers that never shall fade or fall ;
Though mine are the gardens of earth and sea,
And the stars themselves have flowers for me,
One blossom of heaven out-blooms them all !
Though sunny the lake of cool Cashmere,
With its plane-tree isle reflected clear,
And sweetly the founts of that valley fall ;
Though bright are the waters of Sing-su-hay,
And the golden floods that thitherward stray,
Yet oh, 'tis only the blest can say
How the waters of heaven outshine them all !"

T. MOORE. *Lalla Rookh.*

EARTHQUAKE.

To the Editor of the Sydney Herald.

SIR,—The shock of earthquake on the 28th inst., reported in to-day's paper as felt at Maitland, Patrick's Plains, &c., was distinctly felt at Parramatta. Being unwell, I was at the time in bed. My window commands the church-clock, by it, the time was just 5 minutes before 8, A.M. The shock was but slight, but sufficient to shake the house, as well as bed, the walls trembling visibly, for at least five seconds. Immediately I felt it, (knowing by experience what was the matter), I rose from the bed and observed that the water in my hand-basin, &c. had been thrown up to the south, the first motion having been felt by me from the north. By the compass, the shock seemed to come from a little to the eastward of north, and to the westward of south. I called to the servants below to ask if they felt the motion; being occupied at the time, they said they did not notice anything in particular. The sensation was that felt in a vessel trembling under press of sail. I made a memorandum of the fact in my diary, but waited till I heard or read a confirmation of it before I made any communication on the subject.

By the map, it will be seen, that the line of vibration connects the basaltic and trappean rocks of the Hunter, and those of Prospect, the Field of Mars, Parramatta, Hunter's Hill, &c. As this direction leads on to the volcanic rocks of Kiama and Geringong, Coolangatta, &c., it is not improbable that the shock was felt in Illawarra.

I shall esteem it a personal favor, if any of your correspondents or readers, who may have felt it, will furnish me privately, or your pages publicly, with any additional particulars. The direction of the vibration, violence, &c., should all be noticed. The state of the weather of late, and the many beautiful meteors, which within a few nights I have recently observed, are probably connected with some particular condition of the terrestrial and atmospheric organism.

It would be rendering a great service to the contributions towards the Natural History of Australia, if phenomena were registered at the time; and it is a great pity, that so few facts of the kind are thought worthy of notice by the great body of Colonists. The earthquake of June 1810, on the Lachlan and Belubula Rivers, was scarcely noticed in any of the public journals; though I am told, the shock was extensively felt. I hope the history of the present one will be more satisfactory.

Your correspondent A. B. incidentally alludes to Etna and Vesuvius. Though any connection with those volcanoes and Australia may be quite out of the question, yet it is very clear, so facts prove it, that earthquakes are generally connected with volcanic outbursts at a distance from them; and it is certain, that even volcanoes in different and widely separated countries are often in synchronous excitement. In the case of the four earthquakes of the south of England a few years back, I observed, (as published in the Magazine of Natural History), that the shocks of Chichester and Poole, (like that of 28th January), in the direction of the great geological joints and fractures of Hampshire and Dorset, were synchronous with eruptions of Vesuvius, &c.

The direction of the shock of Thursday is coincident with that of one line of the joints traversing the rocks of the country shaken; and there is nothing contradictory to experience of similar cases in Europe and America, in believing that this line is that of elevation also of the mountain ranges. Situated as this colony is, in the neighbourhood of the volcanic isles of the Pacific, and traversed as this portion of it is by volcanic dykes of apparently recent origin, the sandstone being pierced by them in an infinity of places, it is not unlikely some connection may be found to exist between this late earthquake and some eruption at a distance. Contributions from persons observant of such facts would do much real service to science.—I remain yours truly,
W. B. CLARKE.
Parramatta, 2nd Feb., 1841.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

SUPREME COURT.—CRIMINAL SIDE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2.

(Before the Chief Justice.)

John Lawler and Cornelius Cooper were indicted, the former with beating one Thomas M'Nab with a hurdle fork, and the latter with aiding and assisting him, so as to cause death.—Not guilty.

George Saunders was indicted for having violated the person of a child, named Frances Hunt, aged seven years.—Guilty of an assault, but not guilty of the capital offence.

(Before Mr. Justice Willis.)

Robert Kearnes was indicted for burglariously entering the dwelling-house of Sydney Binks, of Kent-street, Sydney.—Guilty.—To be transported for ten years.

Michael Minter, John Smith, and Carl Cook, indicted for stealing tea bottles of wine, the property of the Queen, on board the "Palmyra" at sea, on the 5th of November.—All acquitted, and returned on board the ship.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3.

(Before the Chief Justice.)

Henry Atcheson Montgomery, of Sydney, charged with forging and uttering a cheque for £1,000, on or about the 15th of November last. Discharged.

John Lewis, a Malay, and Frederick Booth, both of the brig "Lunar," were indicted, for having, on the high seas, at Kororarika, in New Zealand, stolen from a chest on board that vessel the sum of £160 and a quantity of wearing apparel. Guilty.—Transported to Van Diemen's Land for the period of seven years.

(Before Mr. Justice Willis.)

William Jones was indicted for forging an order for £1.—Guilty of uttering.—To be transported for life.

James Martin and Cornelius O'Brien were indicted for burglariously entering the dwelling-house of Harriet Weavers, at Sydney, on the 1st of November, 1840, with intent to steal.—Guilty.—To be transported for ten years.

Cornelius O'Brien, indicted for assaulting James Connors, and with his teeth cutting and wounding the nose of the said James Connors.—Not guilty.—Discharged.

William Butt was indicted for wounding James Prescott, with a knife, at Sydney, on the 8th of October.—Not guilty.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4.

(Before the Chief Justice.)

James Welsh, indicted for having on the 1st of December last violated the person of Charlotte Beaton, of Gloucester-street, Sydney; a second count charged him with having committed an assault, with intent, &c.—Not guilty.

John O'Keefe, stock-keeper and bullock-driver, was indicted for having on the 15th of December last violated the person of Belinda Booker, a child of seven and-a-half years of age.—Remanded.

William Manson, private bandsman of the 28th regiment, was indicted for having, at Parramatta, on the 28th of December last, violated the person of Margaret Doolan, aged seven years.—Remanded.

(Before Mr. Justice Willis.)

William Turton and William M'Rogan, indicted for robbing Michael Horan of four sovereigns, on the Parramatta-road, on the 4th of November.—Turton to be transported for fifteen years, M'Rogan three years hard labour in Newcastle Gaol.

Joseph Barber was indicted for stealing sundry articles of clothing on board the ship "Dauntless," at sea.—To be worked on the treadmill for ten days.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

(Before the Chief Justice and a Common Jury.)

Hugh Taylor and Henry Justus Latham, both of Parramatta, were indicted for having uttered a promissory note for £25, bearing date the 30th of December, 1839.—Discharged.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

(Before Judge Stephen and a Common Jury.)

Brian Durran, a private soldier, of the 28th regiment, was indicted for having at Stonequarry, on the 23d of October, 1840, forged, had in his possession, and uttered a warrant or order for payment of the sum of £6 3s. 3d.—Discharged.

James Cuffery, late of Berrima, was indicted for having on the 26th of October last forged, had in his possession, and uttered an order for £5 5s.—The Jury found a special verdict that he was insane at the time, and therefore they acquitted him of the offence; he was then remanded till the Queen's pleasure should be known.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6.

(Before the Chief Justice and a Common Jury.)

Francis Silvester, of Windsor, was indicted for having on the 26th of October last, at Colo River, in a prize fight, killed one James Biver, and Michael Lamb, the younger, James Cullen, James Hunter, and John Huxly, were indicted for being present, aiding and abetting the said Francis Silvester.—The Jury returned a verdict of manslaughter against Silvester; they also found Lamb, Cullen, Hunter, and Huxly guilty of being present aiding and abetting, but recommended Huxly to mercy on account of his having endeavoured to prevent the fight.

George Stock, late of Penrith, was indicted for the wilful murder of his own son, William Stock, aged eight years, by having on the morning of the 4th of November thrown him into the River Nepean, and held him down till he was drowned.—Acquitted.

(Before Judge Stephen and a Common Jury.)

Bridget Linter, alias Bridget Sheridan, late of Wellington, was indicted for having on the 2d of April, on the Wellington-road, stabbed one James Hawes, with intent to kill and murder him; second count charged her with an assault with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.—The Jury returned a verdict of not guilty on both counts.

Patrick Macarty was indicted for having on the 24th of November, at Lane Cove, assaulted one James Byrnes, with a knife, with intent to kill and murder him; a second count charged him with having committed the assault with intent to do the prosecutor some grievous bodily harm.—Guilty on the second count.—To be transported for fifteen years.